DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 400 744 HE 029 584

AUTHOR	Gross, Paul R.; Levitt, Norman
TITLE	Higher Superstition. The Academic Left and Its Quarrels with Science.
REPORT NO	ISBN-0-8018-4766-4
PUB DATE	94
NOTE	314p.
AVAILABLE FROM	The Johns Hopkins University Press, 2715 North Charles Street, Baltimore, MD 21218-4319 ($25.95).
PUB TYPE	Books (010) -- Viewpoints (Opinion/Position Papers, Essays, etc.) (120)
EDRS PRICE	Document Not Available from EDRS.
DESCRIPTORS	Academic Freedom; Attitudes; Censorship; *Feminism; Freedom of Speech; Futures (of Society); Higher Education; Intellectual Freedom; Opinions; Political Influences; Racial Relations; *Science and Society; *Sciences; Scientific Literacy; Scientific Principles; Scientific Research; Scientists; Trend Analysis
IDENTIFIERS	Deconstruction; Postmodernism

ABSTRACT

In this book the authors raise serious questions about the growing criticism of science by humanists and social scientists on the "academic left," and explore the origins of this trend. They argue that when scientific texts are deconstructed and feminists make charges of scientific "patriarchy," the basic principles and practices that underlie 300 years of scientific achievement are being attacked by those with little knowledge of the scientific process. In the first five chapters the authors discuss the academic left and academic insularity; briefly consider the history of the American left; look at cultural constructivism; examine postmodernist approaches to cultural studies and chaos theories; and examine the relationship between feminist thinking and science. In chapter 6, the authors charge radical environmentalists with exploiting issues such as acid rain and the ozone hole; in chapter 7, the social and political issues as they relate to racial justice and the AIDS epidemic are considered; while in chapter 8 they examine some of the underlying causes of hostility toward science. In the final chapter the authors express their concerns about the future and about how science is perceived in academia and by the public. (Contains approximately 325 references.) (CH)

****
* Reproductions supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made *
* from the original document. *
****